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The institution of these two societies was almost coincident with the opening of the three Universities of Kharkof, Kazan and Vilna by the Emperor Alexander I. Before his reign there had been but one university in the Empire, that of Moscow. Towards the close of his reign, in 1819, still another university, that of St. Petersburg, was opened; and in the same year the Society of German Practitioners in St. Petersburg was formed. This was followed a year later by the formation of a similar society in Warsaw. A gap of over thirty years, corresponding to the reign of the Emperor Nicholas I., succeeded, during which but one medical society was instituted in Russia. This was the Society of Russian Practitioners in St. Petersburg. From the date of the accession of Alexander II. the number of these societies has rapidly increased. There are now no fewer than 120 in the whole of the Empire, the total capital of which amounts to over \$600,000. The majority of Russian medical societies have libraries attached to them; while some have museums, laboratories and even free dispensaries.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

It is announced that M. Eulogius Georgieff, the founder of the Sofia University, who died recently, bequeathed 20,000,000 fr. to the Bulgarian government for public purposes, including 6,000,000 fr. for a technical school to be established at Sofia.

MR. S. B. BROWNELL has presented Barnard College, New York, with a building for a dormitory to cost \$150,000, which will be erected at once.

THE endowment left by Patrick B. O'Brien, of New Orleans, for establishing chairs of chemistry, of physics and of Roman law in the Catholic University of America will be available this autumn. The Rev. Father W. J. Kirby has been appointed professor of sociology.

A COMMITTEE of the Trustees of the University of Missouri has been appointed to investigate the political views of Professor C. H. Hicks, since 1892 professor of political economy in the University. The report of the committee will probably result in the removal of Professor

Hicks, and it is said that Dr. W. G. Brown, professor of chemistry, is likely to share the same fate.

THE Council of the University of Lyons has devoted the sum of 42,000 fr. to complete the construction of the laboratory of biology of Tamaris, near Toulon, and it is expected that a sum will be appropriated to the support of the laboratory.

THE School of Applied Chemistry, founded last year under the auspices of the faculty of science of the University of Paris, has celebrated its first anniversary. M. Darboux presided, and an address was made by M. Friedel, director of the laboratory.

THE University of Berlin offers holiday courses for teachers of science in the higher schools from the 29th of September to the 9th of October of the present year. Lectures will be given by Drs. van't Hoff, Dames and other leading professors, and excursions and visits of scientific interest have been arranged.

DR. KIHLMAN has been appointed associate professor of botany in the University at Helsingfors. Dr. Theodor Petersen and Dr. Josef Epstein, of the Physical Institute of Vienna, have been appointed to professorships. Mr. Stanley Dunkerley, of the department of applied mechanics, Cambridge, has been appointed professor of applied mechanics at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

'THE PRESENT EVOLUTION OF MAN.'

IN SCIENCE of July 2d, pp. 33-35, Professor T. D. A. Cockerell published a kind and appreciative review of my book 'The Present Evolution of Man,' for which I am more than grateful. He disagreed with me, however, as to several matters, and as on these precisely I have failed to carry conviction to many critics I am forced to believe either that I am wrong or that my explanations have not as yet been adequate nor sufficiently clear. I would fain hope the latter, and therefore am glad to seize the opportunity Professor Cockerell's review affords of making some reply in the pages of SCIENCE.

Professor Cockerell does not entirely agree with my theory of retrogression. Put very